

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /117 W

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R 010751Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3784

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL LENNINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIA CHANGES BALTIC POLICY

REF: STATE 166673

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL AUG 1 WITH DFA (COOPER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, EUROPEAN BRANCH). COOPER SAID THAT U.S. WOULD PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT AUSTRALIA HAD TAKEN SIMILAR DECISION TO RECOGNIZE, IN EFFECT, ABSORPTION OF BALTIC STATES BY SOVIET UNION. HE ADDED THAT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD DISCUSSED ISSUE WITH DEPARTMENT AND UNDERSTOOD U.S. REASONS FOR NOT RPT NOT CHANGING U.S. POLICY TOWARDS BALTIC STATES. HE SAID HE BELIEVED AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HAD ALREADY INFORMED DEPT OF CHANGE IN POLICY.

2. COOPER SAID THAT AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW, SIR JAMES PLIMSOLL, WOULD MAKE VISIT TO ONE OF BALTIC STATES, PROBABLY ESTHONIA, IN NEXT TWO WEEKS, BEFORE FORTHCOMING AUSTRALIAN EUROPEAN CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE. WOULD NOT BE TIME TO
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VISIT LATVIA AND LITHUANIA ON THIS OCCASION. AUSTRALIA HAS

MADE NO STATEMENT TO SOVIETS ON CHANGE, BUT IF SOVIETS ASK IF PLIMSOLL'S VISIT MEANS THAT AUSTRALIA NOW RECOGNIZES THAT BALTIC STATES ARE PART OF SOVIET UNION, PLIMSOLL HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ANSWER AFFIRMATIVELY. COOPER SAID THAT AUSTRALIAN DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED IN MID-JULY AND INDICATED THAT AUSTRALIA HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH NEW ZEALAND IN ADVANCE OF CHANGE IN POLICY.

3. COOPER NOTED THAT AUSTRALIA HAS CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF MIGRANTS FROM THREE BALTIC STATES AND MAY FACE SOME DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF DECISION WHEN IT BECOMES KNOWN. (ACTUALLY, OFFICIAL STATISTICS SHOW ABOUT 50,000 IMMIGRANTS CAME FROM BALTIC STATES OVER PERIOD 1945-70, WITH MORE THAN HALF IN PERIOD 1948-51. IMMIGRATION FROM BALTIC STATES HAS ALMOST STOPPED IN LAST FEW YEARS.) LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO "TIDY UP" POLICY ON BALTIC STATES, ACCORDING TO COOPER, HAVING CONCLUDED THAT MOST BALTIC MIGRANTS "PROBABLY VOTE LIBERAL" IN ANY CASE (I.E., FOR OPPOSITION PARTY), AND LABOR PARTY HAS LITTLE TO LOSE ELECTORALLY FROM CHANGE IN POLICY.
HARROP

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